

REMARKS

Claims 26-34 are presented for consideration, with Claims 26, 29 and 32 being independent.

All of the claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Matsumoto '428. Initially, it is respectfully submitted that Matsumoto does not qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), but rather under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). Nonetheless, it is submitted that Applicant's claims are distinguishable over Matsumoto for the reasons discussed below.

Claim 26 of Applicant's invention relates to an image reproducing apparatus capable of displaying an image of an object, picked up by the camera and stored together with information of direction of the camera, on a display device. The apparatus includes a reproducing device to reproduce a plurality of images picked up by the camera on the display device, and a reproducing control device to control reproduction by the reproducing device so as to display a group of images picked up by the camera whose direction is one predetermined direction, among the plurality of images stored in the storage device, in accordance with the information of direction of the camera.

Claims 29 and 32 relate to an image reproducing method and a storage medium, respectively, and correspond to Claim 26. These claims have thus also been amended to recite displaying a group of images picked up by the camera whose direction is one predetermined direction, among a plurality of stored images, in accordance with information of direction of the camera.

In accordance with Applicant's claimed invention, a group of stored images can be effectively displayed. Support for the claim amendments can be found on page 4, line 21, et seq. of the specification.

The patent to Matsumoto relates to an electronic photography system capable of electronically recording and displaying images. In this regard, an image capturing unit 101 captures images through image pick up 103 and stores the captured images in a storage unit 104 along with attribute data. In contrast to Applicant's claimed invention, however, Matsumoto is not understood to teach or suggest, among other features, displaying a group of images whose direction is one predetermined direction in accordance with information of direction of a camera. To the contrary, the attribute data used in Matsumoto is used for classifying the image data and is shown, for example, in Figures 12, 28, 33 and 37.

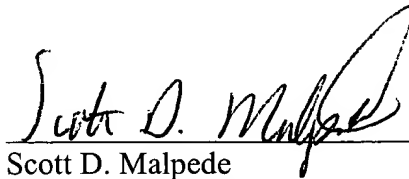
Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Matsumoto fails to anticipate or render obvious Applicant's claimed invention, and therefore reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 is respectfully requested.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Applicant's invention as set forth in independent Claims 26, 29 and 32 is patentable over the cited art. In addition, dependent Claims 27, 28, 30, 31, 33 and 34 set forth additional features of Applicant's invention. Independent consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott D. Malpede", is written over a horizontal line.

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